(c) The Government is not planning to take up these issues at the United Nations or the SAARC.

Indo-Iraq economic co-operation

†1945. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to enhance economic cooperation between India and Iraq;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether dialogues have been held in this regard between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the decisions taken as a result of the said dialogues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, It is proposed to enhance economic cooperation with Iraq through utilization of institutional mechanisms and by promoting increased contacts between the two sides through visits of Iraqi business delegations and businessmen and dissemination of related information and provision of humanitarian assistance.

(c) and (d) Yes. The two sides have decided to take steps to enhance bilateral economic cooperation.

Jammu-Sialkot bus route

1946. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open the Jammu to Sialkot bus route in coming days; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (b) India had, in June 2004, during the Foreign Secretary level discussions, as a part of the Composite dialogue, proposed

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

a number of cooperation measures to Pakistan for enhancing people to people contact across the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC), including the Jammu-Sialkot bus link. Pakistan's response is awaited.

ARM supply to Nepal

†1947. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pro-democrat leaders of Nepal have made an appeal to Government of India for not giving armaments to Nepal Government, if so, Government's reaction thereon;

(b) whether Government have changed the decision of not supplying arms to Nepal till the restoration of democracy there, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Nepal has got supply of arms from some other countries after India has stopped the supply, if so, the names of the countries which have extended their help to Nepal in supplying arms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The issue of military supplies to Nepal remains under continuous review taking into account the evolving situation in that country.

Following the lifting of the Emergency in Nepal on April 29, 2005 and the release of several political party leaders and activists, Government of India has released some of the non-lethal supplies in the pipeline. The GOI decision hs been communicated to the King along with our expectations that His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) should take further and early steps towards the lifting of curbs on civil liberties and restoration of multi-party democracy in Nepal. The Governments of USA and UK have also released some non-lethal supplies.

Following our decision to release some non-lethal military supplies, political leaders in Nepal have called upon the Government of India to reconsider its decision which they believe would encourage the King to continue with his present approach. On our part, we have explained to

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